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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 2018

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/73/L.36 and A/73/L.36/Add.1)*]

73/24. Sport as an enabler of sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/5 of 3 November 2003 and 59/10 of 27 October 2004, its decision to proclaim 2005 the International Year for Sport and Physical Education to strengthen sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, and its resolutions 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 60/9 of 3 November 2005, 61/10 of 3 November 2006, 62/271 of 23 July 2008, 63/135 of 11 December 2008, 65/4 of 18 October 2010, 67/17 of 28 November 2012, 69/6 of 31 October 2014 and 71/160 of 16 December 2016,

Recalling also its resolution 67/296 of 23 August 2013, in which it proclaimed 6 April the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace,

Recalling further its resolution 72/6 of 13 November 2017 on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal, and all of its previous resolutions on this matter,

Recognizing the contribution of sport to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, as declared in its resolutions 60/1, and 65/1 of 22 September 2010,

Recalling that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] inter alia, sport is recognized as an important enabler for sustainable development,

Acknowledging the importance of holistic approaches to health and well-being through regular physical activity, including sport and recreation, to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and promote healthy lifestyles, including through physical education, as reflected in the political declaration of the third high-level

[1] Resolution 70/1.

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meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,[2]

Recognizing that sports, the arts and physical activity have the power to change perceptions, prejudices and behaviours, as well as to inspire people, break down racial and political barriers, combat discrimination and defuse conflict, as reflected in the political declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit in 2018,[3]

Recognizing also the benefits of sport for the health of older persons, as outlined in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[4]

Recalling article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[5] outlining a child's right to play and leisure, and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[6] stressing the promotion of phy ical, mental and emotional health through play and sports,

Recalling also the political declaration[7] and outcome[8] adopted at the five-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[9] and the commitments made therein to ensure equal opportunities for women and girls in recreational and sports activities, as well as in participation in athletics and physical activities at the national, regional and international levels, such as access, training, competition, remuneration and prizes,

Recalling further articles 1 and 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[10] in which States parties recognized the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, and recognizing that the active involvement of persons with disabilities in sport contributes to the full and equal realization of their human rights, as well as respect for their inherent dignity,

Acknowledging the revised International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport, as proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-eighth session, in November 2015,[11] as well as the Declaration of Berlin and the Kazan Action Plan adopted at the fifth and sixth International Conferences of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, held, respectively, in Berlin in May 2013 and in Kazan, Russian Federation, in July 2017,

Recognizing the important role played by the International Convention against Doping in Sport[12] in harmonizing the actions taken by Governments in the fight against doping in sport, which are complementary to those undertaken by the sporting movement under the World Anti-Doping Code of the World Anti-Doping Agency,

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[2] Resolution 73/2.

[3] Resolution 73/1.

[4] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[6] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

[7] Resolution S-23/2, annex.

[8] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[11] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-eighth Session, Paris, 3–18 November 2015*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. IV, resolution 43.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2419, No. 43649.

Acknowledging the recommendations contained in the report of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group entitled "Harnessing the power of sport for development and peace: recommendations to Governments", and encouraging Member States to implement and further develop those recommendations,

Recognizing the need to strengthen and further coordinate efforts, including multi-stakeholder partnerships, at all levels to maximize the potential of sport to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and national peacebuilding and State-building priorities,

Acknowledging the major role of the United Nations system and its country programmes as well as the role of Member States in promoting human development through sport and physical education,

Acknowledging also the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport and the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, including the declarations that it has adopted, in promoting the educational, cultural and social dimensions of sport and physical education, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and in forging commitments and recommendations in this regard,

Recalling the proclamation by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, at its thirty-eighth session, of 20 September as the International Day of University Sport,

Recalling also the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the opportunities that it provides within its mandate for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including in and through sport, and welcoming the continued advancement of women and girls in sports and sporting activities, in particular the support for their progressively higher participation in sport events, which provides opportunities for economic development through sports,

Acknowledging the Olympic Charter, and that any form of discrimination is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic movement,

Welcoming the memorandum of understanding signed between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations in April 2014, in which a call was made to strengthen efforts around sport-based initiatives that encourage social and economic development, as well as to strengthen the many partnerships that United Nations organizations have established with the Committee,

Affirming the invaluable contribution of the Olympic and Paralympic movements in establishing sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace and development, in particular through the ideal of the Olympic Truce, acknowledging the opportunities provided by past Olympic and Paralympic Games, including those held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in 2018, as well as the Youth Olympic Games held in Buenos Aires in 2018, welcoming with appreciation all upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games, in particular those to be held in Tokyo in 2020, in Beijing in 2022, in Paris in 2024 and in Los Angeles, United States of America, in 2028, as well as the Youth Olympic Games to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 2020, and calling upon future hosts of such Games and other Member States to include sport, as appropriate, in conflict prevention activities and to ensure the effective implementation of the Olympic Truce during the Games,

Recognizing the role that the Paralympic movement plays in showcasing the achievements of athletes with disabilities to a global audience and in acting as a

primary vehicle to promote positive perceptions and greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in sport and society,

Recognizing also the importance of international, continental and regional sport events, such as the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships, the Special Olympics World Games, the Deaflympics, the World Indigenous Games, the European Games, the Games of La Francophonie, the Pan American Games and the Parapan American Games, the All Africa Games, the Asian Games, the Pacific Games, the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, the World Nomad Games, the Commonwealth Games and the Universiade, for promoting education, health, development, peace and solidarity among nations,

Highlighting the importance of continuing to reduce barriers to participation in sport events, particularly for participants from developing countries,

Recognizing that major international sport events should be organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship, tolerance and inadmissibility of discrimination of any kind and that the unifying and conciliative nature of such events should be respected,

Reaffirming the importance of Member States, including those that will host such Games and other sporting events in the future, as well as relevant sport-related organizations, federations and associations, as appropriate, enhancing measures to address the risks of corruption related to such events, and in this regard welcoming the conference on safeguarding sport from corruption, held in Vienna in June 2018,

Emphasizing the critical role of productive public-private partnerships for funding sport for development and peace programmes, institutional development and physical and social infrastructures,

1. *Reaffirms* that sport is an important enabler of sustainable development, and recognizes the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Strengthening the global framework for leveraging sport for development and peace",[13] reviewing progress towards the implementation of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace and proposing an update to the Action Plan aimed at outlining a system-wide approach to leveraging sport for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] and for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the growing attention by the international community to exploring and leveraging the role of sport and physical activity in the attainment of development objectives and the enjoyment of human rights, and in this regard acknowledges the endorsement by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the Kazan Action Plan and its sport policy follow-up framework, adopted at the sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, as a voluntary, overarching reference for fostering international convergence among policymakers in the fields of physical education, physical activity and sports, as well as a potential tool for aligning international and national policy in these fields,[14] and

[13] A/73/325.

[14] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-ninth Session, Paris, 30 October–14 November 2017*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. IV, resolution 30.

the endorsement by the World Health Assembly of the global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030;[15]

4. *Encourages* Member States, the entities of the United Nations system, including its peacekeeping missions, special political missions and integrated peacebuilding missions, sport-related organizations, federations and associations, athletes, the media, civil society, academia and the private sector to draw on these frameworks, as appropriate, in a coherent and integrated manner, to advance the consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development and peace strategies and the incorporation of sport and physical education in international, regional and national development and peace policies and programmes, on the basis of standards, indicators and benchmarks, as well as to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of such strategies, policies and programmes;

5. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, acceding to and implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child[9] and the Optional Protocols thereto,[16] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[10] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women[17] and the International Convention against Doping in Sport;[12]

6. *Calls upon* the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to strengthen and systemize inter-agency collaboration, in line with the updated United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, to maximize the potential of sport and physical activity to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and national peacebuilding and State-building priorities;

7. *Encourages* Member States to effectively use all the opportunities offered by sport and by its values in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals;

8. *Encourages* the relevant stakeholders to emphasize and advance the use of sport as a vehicle to foster sustainable development and, inter alia, strengthen education, including physical education, for children and young persons, including persons with disabilities, promote health, prevent disease, including non-communicable diseases, and drug abuse, realize gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, foster inclusion and well-being, promote healthy and active ageing, ensure the participation of everyone without discrimination of any kind, promote tolerance, mutual understanding and respect and facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention and peacebuilding;

9. *Encourages* Member States to provide institutional structures, appropriate quality standards, policies and competencies and promote academic research and expertise in the field to enable ongoing training, capacity-building and education of physical education teachers, coaches and community leaders in sport for development and peace programmes;

10. *Invites* Member States and international sport organizations to continue to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in their capacity-building efforts in sport and physical education by providing national experiences and best practices, as well as financial, technical and logistic resources for the development of sport-based programmes;

[15] See World Health Organization, document WHA71/2018/REC/1, resolution 71.6.

[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

[17] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

11. *Encourages* relevant stakeholders, and in particular the organizers of sport events, to use and leverage such events to promote and support sport for development and peace initiatives and to strengthen existing and build new partnerships, coordinate common strategies, policies and programmes and increase coherence and synergies, while raising awareness at the local, national, regional and global levels;

12. *Encourages* Member States to adopt best practices and means to promote the practice of sport and physical activities among all members of society, and in this regard welcomes initiatives to adopt dedicated education, health, youth and sport days, including specialized sport days, at the national and local levels, as a means to promote physical and mental health and well-being and cultivate a sport culture in society;

13. *Supports* the independence and autonomy of sport as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic movement and of the International Paralympic Committee in leading the Paralympic movement;

14. *Notes* the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, Member States and civil society for the observance of the Olympic Truce, and encourages future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to support the effective implementation of the Truce;

15. *Encourages* relevant entities involved in delivering mega sport events to respect applicable laws and international principles, including the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework,[18] noting other ongoing initiatives in this regard, at every stage of the event life cycle, to safeguard the many societal benefits that hosting such events can contribute;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to enhance their efforts to prevent and fight corruption in sport and, in this regard, stresses the importance of robust legislative and law enforcement measures, and also calls upon Member States to improve cooperation and the coordination and exchange of information in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems;

17. *Encourages* Member States, in particular those committed to promoting sport as a tool for development and peace, and other stakeholders, such as international sports federations, organizers of sport events, sports clubs and leagues, foundations and the private sector, especially businesses involved in the sports and development sector, to continue and intensify their support for the work of the United Nations system on sport for development and peace, including through voluntary contributions and the establishment of innovative partnerships to advance policy and programme development in the field of sport for development and peace;

18. *Also encourages* Member States to actively participate in the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, an informal group of permanent missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva serving as a platform to promote dialogue and exchange of views and information, including on ongoing initiatives, programmes and partnerships, between Member States and all relevant stakeholders, as well as to facilitate and encourage the integration of sport to support the achievement of the United Nations goals and objectives;

19. *Further encourages* Member States, with the support of the United Nations system, within existing resources, and other relevant stakeholders, to explore ways and means to integrate sport into various development objectives in the review and follow-up processes of relevant development frameworks and agendas, including the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the Beijing Declaration and

[18] A/HRC/17/31, annex.

Platform for Action,[9] the reviews of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and of the achievement of the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[19] the follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth,[20] the follow-up processes of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the review and follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;[2]

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including by providing a targeted review of the contribution of sport to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with particular attention to the annual high-level political forum on sustainable development, when it convenes under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled "Sport for development and peace".

44th plenary meeting
3 December 2018

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[19] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[20] Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.